Policy for export of rice to Bangladesh

1446. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI:
SHRI SANJAY DALMIA:
DR. BAPU KALDATE:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any free trade policy for the export of rice to Bangladesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether West Bengal has been exempted from the purview of this policy; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Exim Policy provides for export of rice without any price and quantity restrictions. The Food Corporation of India has also been permitted to export/sell for exports upto 2.0 million tonnes of fine and superfine varieties of rice from the public stocks. Such exports would also include export of rice to Bangladesh.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Interim relief to journalists

1447. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA:
MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have completed all the formalities about providing interim relief to journalists;

(b) if so, the amount of interim relief proposed to be given to the journalists;

(c) the number of journalists to be benefited; and

(d) by when the wage Board is going to give its final report?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) to (d) Several orgnisations representing journalists, non-journalists and other newspaper and news agency employees have placed demands for payment of interim relief. The Wage Boards have fixed oral hearings from 22nd to 25th August, 1995 to consider these demands.

Stock of rice in FCI godowns

1448. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a huge stock of rice with Food Corporation of India (FCI);

(b) whether Food Corporation of India wants to sell out the rice at low price;

(c) whether there are no takers for Food Corporation of India rice despite that offer; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Apart from the distribution of rice through PDS/RPDS and other welfare schemes, the Food Corporation of India has been authorised to sell rice from its stock in the open market for domestic consumption and also for export, at the rates above the Central Issue Price. During 1995-96 (upto June, 95) a quantity of 7 lakh MTs (P) of rice has already been sold by Food Corporation of India in open sales and for export.

Child labour in Gujarat

1449. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what is the estimated number of child labourers in Gujarat engaged in the match and fire work factories, glass and glass bangle factories, Carpet and Sari embroidery and other hazardous jobs as on the eve of the declaration of the Prime Minister's action plan to abolish child labour from hazardous jobs;

(b) how far such child labourers have since been freed from hazardous jobs area-wise and how many of them have been resettled in alternative jobs or are sent for training or education; and

(c) what further steps are contemplated in this drection?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) As per the 1981 census, the total child labour population in Gujarat was 676913. Industry wise figures on child labour is not maintained.

(b) and (c) The National Authority for Elimination of Child Labour constituted under the Chairmanship of Union Labour Minister had adopted a plan of action called the "Identification, Release and Rehabilitation of Child Labour". This plan of action has already been forwarded to all the State Governments for adoption. This plan of action covers a range of actions required to tackle the child labour problem especially in hazardous occupations. Briefly, it calls for a convergence of services and schemes of the Central and State Governments at the implementing level—the District level—to effectively handle the identification and rehabilitation of Child Labour and stricter enforcement of relevant laws. The National Authority for Elimination of Child Labour has also identified 100 districts which have the highest incidence of child labour in the country as per the 1981 census. It has been decided that projects to eliminate child labour in hazardous occupations will be started as per the National Child Labour Project Scheme in these districts. Under this scheme children withdrawn from work will be provided with non formal education, vocational training, nutrition and stipends through special schools. A worksho pf heads of these 100 Districts is scheduled to take place in New Delhi on September 13-14, 1995. The concerned collectors have been requested to prepare project proposals for their respective districts based on the National Child Labour Project Scheme. An allocation of Rs. 34.4 crores has been made for the current year to implement the projects for child labour elimination.

Child Labourers in Hazardous Factories

1450. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) The State where the child labours are engaged in dangerous, explosive and hazardous factories; and

(b) whether Government has taken any steps to rehabilitate them and what is their number?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) State-wise list of children working in dangerous, explosive and hazardous factories is not maintained. However, the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 prohibits employment of children in hazardous occupations and processes all over the countfy is enclosed. (*see* below)

National Child Labour Policy, 1987 has three action plans to rehabilitate child labour i.e. (i) a legislative action plan; (ii) focussing of general development programmes for benefiting children wherever possible; and (iii) project based action plan in areas of high concentration of child labour engaged in wage/quasi-wage employment.

At present, 12 National Child Labour Projects are under implementation in 8 States covering approximately 16,000 children. A major activity undertaken under the national Child Labour Projects is establishment of special schools to provide basic needs like nonformal education, vocational training, supplementary nutrition, etc., to the children withdrawn from employment. Voluntary agencies are being financially assisted to the extent of 75% for taking up welfare projects for working children under the Grants-in-Aid Scheme.